

Getting to Know the Bureau of Consumer Health

*By Dorothy Suter
Bureau of Consumer Health*

Within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment there are many different bureaus working together to protect and promote the health of Kansas citizens. One bureau that preserves this mission is the Bureau of Consumer Health (BCH). BCH is currently under the direction of Mary Glassburner who is the acting Interim Director. BCH is composed of two programs: Food Protection and Consumer Safety (FPCS), and the Kansas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (KCLPPP).

Food Protection and Consumer Safety, also directed by Glassburner, protects public health by regulating and inspecting more than 10,000 food service establishments and lodging facilities. FPCS inspectors work with food service establishment owners and employees by educating them on food safety issues. In addition to inspecting, regulating and educating food service establishments, inspectors also respond to consumer complaints and natural disasters.

Ann Lowder directs the Kansas Childhood Lead Poisoning and Prevention Program. KCLPPP is divided into five subsections: Medical Surveillance, Pre-Renovation Education, Licensure and Certification, Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology as well as Surveillance. The five subdivisions of KCLPPP work together to protect public health by screening, identifying, and recommending proper medical and environmental management of lead poisoned adults and children as well as educating about and reducing exposure to lead hazards.

For more information about the programs within the Bureau of Consumer Health check out the following Web site: <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/bch/>.